THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Government approved a Five Year Plan (2002-2007) for modernization of six Central Para Military Forces at an estimated cost of Rs. 3740.71 crore in 2002. Government has also approved a modernization plan (2005-2008) for Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) at an estimated cost of Rs. 444.33 crore. The major thrust is to acquire modern weapons and ammunition/special protective equipment/ vehicles, advanced communication and surveillance equipment and modern training aids.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Weapons and ammunition, communication and surveillance equipment, special protective gear and training aids are mainly being procured from ordnance factories and various Defence Public Sector Undertakings. DRDO is being consulted in various R&D and other specialized matters.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Requirements of Para Military Forces are made known to Defence PSUs and other such organizations to enable them to do their perspective planning.

Hiring Helicopters for anti-naxalite operations in A.P.

2421. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for hiring helicopters for anti-naxalite operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has agreed to provide helicopter support to the State Government for logistic and evacuation of casualties purposes and the matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Defence.